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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

13 May 1954

2003

TO: MR. C]

FROM: []

SUBJECT: Letter for []

Attached are copies of the referenced letter which you requested
be translated.

1/5/54

Mr. []

Dear friend:

Let me congratulate you for the success which you obtained during the very delicate mission which we fortunately put in your hands. The admonition of our beloved friend constitutes a deed of great transcendancy for our cause and an aid of unquestionable value. For reasons, which I will make known to you at some opportune time, your news came to me quite delayed, but I recognized the result of your efforts in the revealing acts that followed. I await confirmation on your vacation so that I may get a detailed account of your work and have the pleasure of greeting you.

You can imagine with what interest I awaited and judged the reaction of our adversaries. I have been able to note a change of conduct, and on the 1st, that is today, I confirmed this change upon hearing the transmissions from the Worker's Day celebration. The communists recognize the powerful force of the Church and decided not to attack. Of course, all of us realize that this attitude, assumed as a temporary measure, does not constitute nor represent a change in the directives that our enemies have outlined.

The communists had two paths to follow: to attack or to ignore. It seems that after more well-thought-out plans, the violent reaction of the first moments, changed, and from there the decision not to make the slightest reference to the Pastoral letter in today's meeting. Nevertheless, they displayed the deepest political color. But, as you realize, this conduct follows a decision derived from a plan of action that we shall later see in complete development. Therefore, I think that we should go ahead in the planned campaign.

The attitude of our enemies forces us to work in a rapid and intense manner. It is unquestionable that a reaction will be produced, but we should be organized and strong in order to combat with advantage. With these ideas in mind, I requested (on the 22 of the past month) the organization of the catholic forces

of our country and the three neighboring countries. Before this, I had recommended that all our friends initiate a strong campaign for the support of the Monseigneur. This campaign has been carried out ~~and~~ will continue growing more each day. I would like to have your ideas, and of course those of our great friends, with whom you are in contact, on the plans that we, in part, are developing and that we wish to complete. They realize that:

- a. In the Catholic movement no political entities will intervene as such, but its members will act as Catholics and as citizens.
- b. We should proceed immediately, if this work has not already been started, toward the secret organization of a central committee, integrated by persons in the absolute confidence of the Monseigneur, which will be charged with the direction of all the movement in the Republic. At the head of each department there will be a departmental committee dependent on the central committee and in each municipality, a sub-committee dependent on the departmental committee. In the capital, cantonal committees will operate and in the municipalities of the department of Guatemala, sub-committees. All under the control and direction of the Central Committee. In this way, all the campaign will be directed and coordinated.
- c. The members of the Central Committee will plan and direct all the movement in accord with the Monseigneur.
- d. All the Catholic organizations in existence in the country should work in a coordinated, active manner according to the lines contained in the general plan which should be prepared in accord with that discussed with you recently.
- e. We have initiated our action so that the heads of the Catholic Church in Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico will support the Head of our Church in Guatemala, and that the organizations and Catholic people of these nations openly support his stand. We wish to obtain Pastoral letters from the high dignitaries, directed to their people, by which, on identifying themselves with the position assumed by the Monseigneur, they may initiate a similar movement of struggle against communism and of support to the Catholic people of our country.
- f. The persons that the Central Committee selects, should immediately secure the indorsement of the press, both spoken and written, so that they can cooperate in the campaign and

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then plan the campaign that the Catholic press should develop. We will see that the foreign press, especially that of the three countries already mentioned, unfolds a great propaganda campaign in order to form consciousness among the people and obtain all the support we have considered.

g. The Catholic priests will act within the indigenous brotherhood organizations to explain the objectives of the church in regard to social matters, the ominous evils of Communism, the insincerity of the revolutionary leaders and the urgency for combatting Communism in our land. This intervention should be immediate and developed in the most suitable manner.

h. The Central Committee should consider the possibility of carrying out public manifestations, strikes, sabotage, etc., in case the government or the revolutionary parties act against the Head of our Church or against our national or foreign clergy.

i. The means of broadcasting which I spoke to you about in my last conference, are all ready and can be used for the development of our campaign under the directives of the general plan that I asked you to prepare in accord with the Monseigneur and his friends.

As I told you, the plans for this campaign should comprise the four parts which I explained to you. The campaign should be under way, and the organization should be completed as soon as possible, as we should plan that Phase B will be initiated, at the latest, on the 1st of next June. I am very anxious to know of all the plans prepared and all that is under-way, considering the importance that they have at the present time and the urgency of carrying them out.

I am writing to [] so that he will get in contact with you and explain all the work that he can do in the various sectors of the Republic. You can have absolute confidence in him. He had had, as his mission in the past, certain activities with Catholic organizations. You can explain our plans of organization to him and he can be an effective collaborator.

I could enlarge upon many aspects of this basic campaign but I refrain from doing so because the planning of it remained in your hands to discuss it with the persons of whom we spoke. I refrain from doing so until I can have the pleasure of seeing you. I beg you, that before you make your trip, you leave everything underway and that you leave a person with whom we can communicate during your absence.

With a friendly greeting and my best regards to you and yours, it is a pleasure to repeat my sincere appreciation.

Luis Sanchez

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